

REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to require that the clamping collar penetrate partially into a part of the filter. New claim 11 recites that the clamping collar penetrates partially into a wall of the filter housing. Support for these changes can be found, *inter alia*, in paragraphs 12, 24, 26 and 30 of the specification. Claims 1-11 are presented for further examination.

Responsive to the comment regarding submission of a certified copy of the priority application, applicants note that a claim for priority together with a certified copy of German application no. 10242872.7 was subsequently filed on January 24, 2006.

The rejection of Claims 1-8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Daniel (U.S. 6,284,130) is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

Amended claim 1 requires, in pertinent part, a valve housing having an elastically deformable clamping collar that protrudes radially relative to an outer housing wall and penetrates partially into a part of the filter. Such a feature is not disclosed by Daniel. Daniel, in contrast, discloses a valve 41 having a collar portion 42 and a skirt portion 43. If the filter media of Daniel becomes clogged, the collar portion 42 is forced radially outwardly so that the dirty oil flows through openings 52 and not through the filter media (column 3, lines 56-62). Further, when an engine containing the filter of Daniel is not running, oil in the annular space (dirty side oil) is retained in the filter cartridge by skirt 43 because the skirt covers the inlet openings 37 (column 3, lines 63-67). Neither the collar portion 42 nor the skirt 43 of Daniel penetrate partially into a part of the filter, as required by claim 1.

Daniel further discloses a valve seat 70 for mounting a valve 60 on a valve support 40 (column 4, lines 59-67). A plurality of detents (catches) 84 may be provided on the rim 78 of the valve seat 70 for holding the valve seat within passage 50. However, the detents of Daniel merely engage the valve support 40. In contrast, the clamping collar of the invention has sufficient elasticity so that it can pivot and penetrate into a part of the filter. Such a structural combination of features is not disclosed or suggested by Daniel.

With respect to Claim 10, Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion that Daniel discloses a clamping collar having a radially protruding stamping burr along the outer rim. As described in paragraph 30 of the instant specification, the claimed stamping burr can be used for digging into the wall of the filter housing, thereby increasing the clamping force. Daniel fails to disclose such a stamping burr. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Daniel in view of Hultgren (U.S. 3,473,664) is respectfully traversed. Claim 9 depends from Claim 1 and thus is patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons that Claim 1 is patentable.

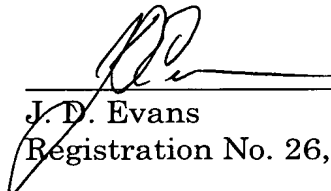
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 624-2845 would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #037141.52695US).

Respectfully submitted,

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